DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

September 19, 1977

Dear Senator Javits:

Your letter of September 8 concerning the inter-relationship between the human rights policy and the Philippine base negotiations was indeed topical. Assistant Secretary Holbrooke has just left Washington on a visit to the Philippines to discuss the situation of the base negotiations with Philippine officials. While a more considered reply to your questions will have to await Mr. Holbrooke's return, I can assure you he will make clear that the status of human rights in the Philippines will have an important influence on the base negotiations.

We have followed with interest recent statements by the Philippine Government promising improvements in the human rights situation. Real improvements will depend on actions. Thus, in recent meetings we have encouraged Philippine officials to transform promises into concrete actions. Human rights have been the most frequent matter of business between the U.S. and Philippine governments in recent months, and I see no letting up until the human rights situation in the Philippines substantially improves.

I will write again after Mr. Holbrooke's return from his visit.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian
Assistant Secretary for
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

The Honorable
Jacob K. Javits,
United States Senate.

Drafted by:D/HA:HKHill/lj

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